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News Release

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New Ulm man sentenced to 198 months for production of child pornography

A 43-year-old New Ulm man was sentenced today to 198 months for producing child pornography.

United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank also sentenced Brian Lee Pfeiffer to three years of supervised release and took him into custody to begin serving his sentence. Pfeiffer was indicted in July 2007, and pleaded guilty Nov. 8, 2007, to one count of production of child pornography.

In determining the appropriate sentence, Judge Frank told the defendant, "I can't give back the innocence you have stolen from these victims," and rejected Pfeiffer's claim that he had committed this crime as a result of stressful circumstances in his life.

According to Pfeiffer's plea agreement, he possessed four videocassettes depicting two girls between the ages of 7 and 9. Pfeiffer agreed that the videos depicted one girl engaged in sexually explicit conduct on multiple occasions from 2002 to Dec. 8, 2006. Additionally, the court found one video depicted sexually explicit conduct of the second girl.

Pfeiffer produced these images in 2002 and 2003 when the girls were sleeping over at the defendant's residence.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the police departments of Mankato and New Ulm, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy L. Perzel.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet. PSC urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.